

High Brow Drama a Keynote to Aims of Workmen's Theatre



JOSEF STRANSKY

First Performance Late in August Will Launch 200,000 Members of Six Labor Unions on Venture Into What They Term "The Higher Life"

AN ambitious attempt to "bring art close to the masses" is announced by the newly organized Workmen's Theatre, which will give its initial performance at the end of August. Six of New York's most powerful labor unions banded together last fall for a venture into what they hope to term "the higher life," and now through a representative committee of twelve they intend the immediate production of five plays before a combined membership of 200,000 working men and women. Furthermore, to assure themselves complete independence from uplifter, dilettanti of philanthropist, the unions will finance the theatre exclusively from their own treasuries.

Richard Ordynski, stage director of the Metropolitan Opera House; B. Iden Payne, art manager of Frohman's theatres, and Emanuel Reicher, distinguished for a memorable performance of "The Weavers" several seasons back, are to control the artistic destinies of the undertaking.

Each of these gentlemen will in turn produce a play, the plays to be selected by them in conference with the workers themselves. The choice for the opening performance is still undetermined, but lies apparently between Andrew's "To the Stars," Ibsen's "Brand" and Galsworthy's "Strife." As the future audiences of workingmen have expressed a curious predilection for high brow drama, the works of all the famous moderns—Eliot, Hauptmann, Shaw and the rest—are being reviewed carefully for the purposes of a continuous repertoire.

Seats to Go by Lot.

In its seating arrangement the Workmen's Theatre will spring a distinct innovation upon the playgoing public. For \$1 each member of the supporting unions may purchase a ticket to three performances—"outsiders" will pay \$1.50. A day or so before the play the workers and all others will assemble to draw from an urn whatever seats they are to occupy. This stern chance alone will determine whether a man shall sit in a stage box or in that row which craves ambitiously to the ceiling. In time the workers hope to build a special playhouse of their own, sans box, sans second balcony, but meanwhile one of the large houses of the city will be rented. The Workmen's Theatre is but one of several projects now which craves the aspirations of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the Fancy Leather Goods Workers Union, the Furriers Union, the Jewelry Workers Union, the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers of North America, the United Hebrew Typers, together with the Women's Trade Union League and the Workmen's Circle, totalling 225,000 men and women.

Good Etchings Cheap.

This committee has designs not on drama alone but on the several other muses and the higher learning as well. For one night a week throughout next fall and winter it holds an option on Carnegie Hall. Here, if all goes properly, Josef Stransky will conduct the Philharmonic Orchestra for the special delectation of the workers. On these nights the seating distribution will be similar to the theatres, with the same monetary regulations. The purchase of original etchings by living artists at moderate prices is being arranged through cooperation with the People's Art Guild and the American Federation of Arts. These are intended for the homes of the worker, few of whom can to-day afford more than cheap lithographs on their walls.

For the next educational year extensive courses have been planned with the advice of the Bureau of Industrial Research. By means of special classes and forums the workers will study trade problems, history, especially the history of the labor movement, for which they make an especial demand; economics and some of the simpler branches of science.

What, one wonders, have the labor units to do with a theatre, with music

and science and the domain of education in general? According to Mr. Buddish, a leader in the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers, who has been active in the promotion of these schemes, the leisure hours of workingmen present problems of equal importance with industrial disputes and sickness benefits.

Subsidized popular entertainments, he says, concerts and lectures fail to meet the special requirements of wage earners. Working men and women, though their time is naturally limited, still have a taste for instruction and pleasure of the so-called higher order.

"Nevertheless," says Mr. Buddish, "the existing popular facilities for entertainment are grossly inadequate to meet their needs. In the first place such enterprises are generally charitable, taking the limited form of a subsidized musical performance or an occasional and half priced play. But charity is demoralizing and in disrepute with workingmen."

"There is to-day a persistent and increasing desire on the part of labor to enjoy what are called the 'higher necessities of life.' As most of these pleasures, the theatres, music, fine books, paintings, etc., are marketed at prices beyond the reach of workingmen they can obtain them only by uniting, as they unite for the business of collective bargaining."

Gen. Felipe Angeles, who has been proclaimed as Provisional President of Mexico by Francisco Villa in the latter's most recent outbreak against the Carranza Government, is unquestionably the foremost soldier the turbulent Southern republic has developed in the last twenty years. It is fairly safe to predict that if Villa and Gen. Angeles take the field against President Carranza's army, provided they are able to recruit a force anything like that which Villa commanded when he terrorized northern Mexico, it will require all the resourcefulness of Carranza's Generals to suppress them.

It is perhaps too early to hazard a guess as to the attitude of the United States Government toward the new administration which Villa and Gen. Angeles are trying to set up in Mexico, but at one time in Gen. Angeles's career he was in high favor with the Wilson Administration in Washington. During the A. B. C. mediation conference at Niagara Falls, when diplomats from Argentina, Chile and Brazil undertook to settle the differences of the various Mexican factions and find an agreement that could be endorsed by the United States, Gen. Angeles was named as one of the three men whom the Wilson Administration would be willing to have made President of Mexico.

It was regarded as significant in those days—in 1914—that President Carranza's name was not in the list. This list of Mexican Presidential possibilities, which was submitted to the mediation conference by the American delegates, was headed by Gen. Angeles, at that particular time Minister of War in Carranza's revolutionary Cabinet and chief of artillery of the Constitutional army. The other two men in the list were Pedro Lascurain, who was Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Madero Cabinet, and Luis Cabrera, one of the Carranza representatives at Washington.

An Artillery Expert.

During the early days of Villa's activity, when he was considered even in the United States as the possible savior of Mexico—that was long before his real character became known and before he led the raid against the United States troops at Columbus—the bandit leader was given credit for considerable military ability. But it was very significant that this reputation stuck to Villa only so long as Gen. Angeles stuck to him. About as soon as the General deserted him the bandit leader's military glory began to decline. It has been fairly well established that many of the most impor-



EMANUEL REICHER

The same inadequacy of opportunity, says Mr. Ruddish, meets the adult worker who in his leisure hours wishes to improve his education. "Official arrangements for the workers in our schools are dry and uninteresting and too systematic to permit enjoyment. Outside of the technical instruction which some night schools offer an ambitious man, there is little in the courses to attract working men and women after a day's hard work."

"Where many could attend weekly or bi-weekly or even tri-weekly lectures in history or art or popular science, few can give the spare hours of every evening to the study of the higher mathematics."

As a consequence of this inadequacy, Mr. Buddish claims, there is hardly a labor organization in the country to-day that has not created

some educational agency of its own. In New York such development within the unions is especially marked, for here so many of the workers are foreign born and have emigrated from countries whose school facilities are far less general than in the United States. These are the people who flock to the city's night schools in their first eager attempts to study English. Few, however, can continue with the night after night courses, as the day's work increasingly absorbs their energies. It is to meet the needs of such people more occasionally and in places more to their convenience that the unions themselves open classes.

Garment Workers Lead.

An excellent example of this specialization is the work of the International Ladies Garment Workers, which for

some years has conducted extensive and flexible courses in English and history and literature for its members, many of whom are young girls. In the summer it opens a large vacation house, where many of them spend their holidays and pursue in leisure hours such studies as they choose.

A somewhat similar plan has been successfully operated by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. The United

Cloth Hat and Cap Makers also is an interesting case in point. For several years it had been Mr. Buddish's custom to address what were called "family gatherings" of the workers. These began as little informal assemblies to discuss trade problems. Out of trade problems grew more cultural ones, and in time the assemblies were converted into classes for the study of English and history and economics, all under

Seating Arrangement

Tickets for all the seats in the house will be contained in urns; one urn containing single tickets, another urn containing tickets for parties of two, and another urn containing tickets for parties of three (where the parties are larger than three, tickets will have to be taken in groups of twos and twos, and threes, threes and threes, etc.) Upon presentation of this membership coupon the holder is allowed to put his hand into the urn and draw his ticket or the tickets for his group. Thus the member is as likely to get a seat in a box or in the orchestra as in the second balcony.

(over)



PAUL U. KELLOGG.

With One Price to All Members, Lottery Will Determine Where Ticket Holders Sit—Enterprise Is Free of Uplifter or Philanthropist

the control of an "educational direc-

tor." When the United Labor Education Committee came into existence last fall it coalesced all the activities of this order in the individual unions that compose it. This concentration was planned to save expense and energy. As a result not only has the educational work been broadened but such ambitious enterprises as the Workmen's Theatre and the concert series have been made possible.

During the spring four so-called "Art Labor and Science" centres were established, one on the East Side, one in Harlem, one in Brooklyn and one in Brownsville. Here, before weekly attendances of workers, lectures were given by authorities on current topics such as the League of Nations, the labor party and industrial problems after the war. Educational movies followed the lecture, and after

these musical performances by eminent soloists.

Of several new classes that the committee has organized its proudest achievement is one for the endite pursuit of art appreciation, which meets enthusiastically at the Metropolitan Museum each week.

Though it is claimed for this movement that it is the spontaneous expression of the workers themselves there are, of course, leading spirits who have promoted it. Besides Mr. Buddish of the cap makers, those active in the efforts to unite the educational work of the labor organizations are J. Schlossberg, secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; M. Kaufman of the Furriers' Union and P. Geller of the Workmen's Circle, who now constitute the executive board of the committee.

However, say these gentlemen, their work is in the last analysis controlled by the unions themselves. The men who compose the committee are elected along with the other union officials and must submit their plans to the unions for approval and report to the committee against whatever suggestions they make.

As the special creature of the workers it is the business of the committee to shape its arrangements in exact accordance with their needs. Thus when the plan for the Workmen's Theatre was under way it became apparent that there were a number of union members who would in no way benefit by it. Among the 200,000 workers there are many Jews of the older generation who speak Yiddish always and in that language, to whom plays in English would hardly be intelligible.

Plays in Yiddish Too.

To remedy this lack an agreement has been reached with the new Jewish Art Theatre, which will be directed by David Pinki. Ben Aron and several other lights of the Yiddish drama. For such union members as desire it a weekly attendance will be possible here on a basis similar to the Carnegie Hall plan.

The committee called a conference late in April of men of letters, scholars and art who are in sympathy with the aims of this new venture of labor. At this meeting and with the advice of the professionals the workers developed their extensive plans for the coming season. Here a permanent conference committee was created, including Robert Bruns, Paul Kellogg, John Elitch, Josef Stransky, Charles A. Beard, Helen Marot, Mary Simbavitch and Dr. Louis Harris.

By such ambitious designs the six labor organizations hope to bring their members a little nearer to the "higher reaches of the human spirit" and at the same time to develop among them a more intelligent leadership.

What Villa Owes Man He Proclaimed Provisional President

Greatest of Bandit Chief's Military Successes Are Credited to Gen. Angeles, Who Is Called Best Soldier Mexico Has Produced in Twenty Years—Favored by Wilson Administration in Days of A. B. C. Conference

tant of Villa's campaigns and the greater part of the military successes that came to his forces were planned and carried into effect by Gen. Angeles, who left the bombast and the glory to Villa and went and did things.

Gen. Angeles was particularly an expert in artillery, and it was due to his knowledge of this branch of the service that Villa's guns were able to make a showing against the greater number of guns operated by Carranza's army and to give very good support to the Villa infantry.

Gen. Angeles has been greatly interested in artillery ever since the first time he entered the military school at Chapultepec, the Mexican military college. He specialized in that branch throughout his military career as an officer in the Diaz army, and later when Huerta had sent him from the country and he had joined Carranza and Villa in the days when those two patriots were operating together he was put in charge of all the artillery of the Constitutional army. Gen. Angeles studied artillery with the French, who are the best artillerymen in the world, and his aptitude and knowledge earned for him a medal of honor at a French artillery school and a post as honorary Colonel in the French artillery establishment.

From a Family of Soldiers.

In all probability Gen. Angeles is the best educated man and the man of highest breeding and class who ever aligned himself with Villa and Villa's schemes. He comes of an aristocratic Mexican family, pure Spanish in descent, with but a trace of early Indian blood, and his European education and his aptitude and knowledge earned for him a medal of honor at a French artillery school and a post as honorary Colonel in the French artillery establishment.

Gen. Angeles was born in Zacualtlan, in the State of Hidalgo, and is about 48 years old. His father was a Colonel in the Mexican army, and the male members of the family for sev-

eral generations back had been soldiers. Martial ardor fired young Felipe, and he elected to follow in his father's steps and take up the army as his career. Entering the military college in 1883, he was graduated eight years later as a First Lieutenant of engineers, and was assigned to service in a sapper regiment.

Mexico at this time was in the epoch of peace which the rule of Diaz brought to it, and there was no opportunity for active service for officers in the technical branches of the army. But Angeles scorned the quiet life of the barracks and devoted himself to the study of artillery, in which he had an intense interest. He soon attracted

attention by his knowledge of that branch, and in 1905 President Diaz assigned to him the difficult task of modernizing the course of artillery instruction in the Mexican military schools. Shortly thereafter Diaz decided to invest several million dollars in modern ordnance and Angeles was named on the committee on specifications despite the opposition of many high Mexican army officers. One of them, Gen. Manuel Mondragon, the inventor of rapid fire guns, which he was selling to Diaz at high prices, succeeded in having Angeles removed from his post and sent to Paris to study French artillery methods.

When Madero overthrew Diaz, Angeles was recalled from France to become director of the military college at Chapultepec, where he instituted numerous reforms based on his observations and experiences in Europe. He became well acquainted with Madero, and that President trusted him to such an extent that he put him in command of the operations against the Zapatistas, who for two years had ravaged several of the southern States of Mexico. Angeles issued an offer of amnesty for all of Zapata's followers who would surrender and conducted his campaign with more success than had been gained by Huerta, Robles and all the better known Mexican Generals.

Sticks to Madero.

Angeles was greatly attached to Madero and believed him to be the man to save Mexico from ruin. When Huerta overthrew the President he offered Angeles his choice of joining forces with him and taking a commission in the Huerta army or accompanying Madero to prison, and Angeles chose the latter. For the next five months Angeles lived in prison, his cell being placed where he could see adherents of Madero led out every day to be executed. Huerta made many overtures to him, but Angeles declined to join the Indian chief. At length Huerta, not daring to kill him, released him and ordered him to Paris to study the higher branches of artillery.

As soon as Angeles had come back from France, slipped across the border and joined the armies of Carranza and Villa, the effectiveness of the Constitutional fighting forces increased. When Carranza and Villa split, Angeles cast his lot with Villa, because at that time, according to his published statements, he believed that Villa really had at heart the good of Mexico, while he thought that Carranza was merely a selfish personal



GEN. FELIPE ANGELES

Self-Doctoring by Animals

It appears that the simple remedies of nature generally suffice to cure beasts of their ailments and that they are guided to them by instinct.

In a communication to the Biological Society of Paris a distinguished naturalist sets forth the fact that medicine as practised by animals is thoroughly practical.

Animals instinctively choose such food as is best suited to them. It is maintained that the human race also exhibits this instinct, and the French scientist blames medical men for giving insufficient attention to the likes and dislikes of their patients in this respect. This instinct, he believes, is a guide that may be relied upon.

A large number of species wash themselves and bathe—elephants, stags, birds, ants, etc. Animals rid themselves of their parasites by using dust, mud, clay, etc. Those suffering from fever restrict their diet, keep quiet, seek darkness and airy places, drink much water and at times plunge into it. When a dog has lost its appetite it eats that species of grass known as "dog's grass." Cats also eat grass, catnip, etc., when sick. Sheep and

cows in the same circumstances seek out certain herbs. An animal suffering from chronic rheumatism invariably keeps as much as possible in the sun. The warrior ants maintain regular organized ambulances.

When Latreille cut the antennae of an ant, other ants immediately covered the ant with their mouths. It is a parent fluid from their mouths. If a chimpanzee is wounded, it stops the flow of blood by placing its hand on the wound or dressing it with leaves and grass.

A terrier once had an injured eye. It remained lying under a counter, avoiding heat and light, although it has been its habit to keep near the fire. It adopted a general treatment—rest and abstinence from food. The local treatment consisted of licking the upper surface of its paw, which it then applied to the wounded eye.

Cats also when hurt treat themselves by this simple method. Deane cites the case of a cat that remained for some time lying on the bank of a stream; also that of a cat which had the singular fortitude to remain for forty-eight hours under a jet of cold water.